



# NEWS RELEASE

## SBA REGION IV

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee

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**Release Date:** November 19, 2003

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**Internet Address:** <http://www.sba.gov/ga/>

### **Voice Your Experiences and Concerns on Federal Business Regulatory Enforcement and Compliance Issues on December 9, 2003**

On Tuesday, December 9, 2003, the SBA's National Ombudsman will be conducting a regulatory fairness hearing in Atlanta from 1:00-4:30 p.m. at 1720 Peachtree St., Room 197. This hearing will offer small businesses and trade/business associations a prime opportunity to offer testimony on federal government regulatory enforcement and compliance actions affecting small businesses such as, but not limited to:

- examinations and audits
- inspections
- record-keeping reviews
- prohibition to open/expand a business
- opportunity (or lack thereof) for a business to identify and correct compliance problems informally before a federal government agency takes an enforcement action (i.e. impose a fine, deny a permit, etc.)

The Office of the National Ombudsman and the upcoming hearing will not address:

- policies of or actions taken by state and local government
- existing or proposed federal legislation or regulations related to business
- regulations governing federal program eligibility and participation requirements for businesses

If you would like to present testimony/comments (approximately five minutes) before the National Ombudsman, please contact Annette Rodriguez at the SBA's Georgia District Office at (404) 331-0100, ext. 614 or via email, [annette.rodriguez@sba.gov](mailto:annette.rodriguez@sba.gov). If it is impossible for you to present your comments in person, you can still forward your written comments to Annette Rodriguez to be read into the hearing record. In either case, we ask that written testimony be submitted to the Georgia District Office by Wednesday, December 3, 2003.

Under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, the Office of the National Ombudsman was created at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The National Ombudsman is authorized to receive and investigate complaints and comments from small businesses regarding regulatory enforcement actions taken against them by federal government agencies.

Please also feel free to pass on this information to other parties you feel would be interested and would like to participate.

For more information on the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Act and the role of the National Ombudsman, please go to <http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman> or request an information package from the Georgia District Office.

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For more information about SBA's programs for small business, visit the SBA's extensive web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). The SBA, in partnership with Staples, has introduced an online newsletter, SBA Solutions. For a free subscription, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list> and select New SBA Solutions Newsletter.